

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. An information handling system comprising:
2 plural components operable to process information;
3 a motherboard operable to interface the plural components;
4 an external card bay interfaced with the motherboard and having signal
5 connectors operable to communicate electrical signals between an
6 external card and the plural components, the external card bay further
7 having opposing side walls defining a width of the external card bay;
8 an external card inserted in the external card bay and having signal connectors
9 coupled to the external card bay connectors, the external card having a
10 width of less than the external card bay width to leave a gap between
11 the external card and a side wall; and
12 an external card blank inserted in the external card bay and having a variable
13 width adjustable to fill the gap between the card and the side wall.

1 2. The information handling system of Claim 1 wherein the external card
2 bay further has first and second horizontally disposed signal connectors, and wherein
3 the external card blank fills the gap by adjusting to a width substantially equal to the
4 width of the external card.

1 3. The information handling system of Claim 1 wherein the external card
2 bay further has first and second horizontally disposed signal connectors, and wherein
3 the external card blank fills the gap by adjusting to a width substantially smaller than
4 the width of the external card.

1 4. The information handling system of Claim 1 wherein the external card
2 bay further has first and second horizontally disposed signal connectors, wherein the
3 external card coupled to the first signal connector, and wherein the external card blank
4 further comprises:
5 a base section operable to couple to the second signal connector;
6 a body section extending out from the base section along a side wall of the
7 external card bay; and

8 an adjustable member extending from the body section to the external card.

1 5. The information handling system of Claim 4 wherein the external card
2 blank body section forms a housing sized to accept the adjustable member and the
3 adjustable member rotationally couples to the body section, the adjustable member
4 biased to extend into the external card bay when a gap exists between the body
5 section and the external card and to rotate into the body section housing when the
6 external card has a width that fills the gap.

1 6. The information handling system of Claim 4 wherein the external card
2 blank body section forms a housing sized to accept the adjustable member and the
3 adjustable member laterally couples to the body section, the adjustable member biased
4 to extend into the external card bay when a gap exists between the body section and
5 the external card and to retract laterally into the body section housing when the
6 external card has a width that fills the gap.

1 7. The information handling system of Claim 4 further comprising a
2 biasing mechanism coupled to the adjustable member and operable to bias the
3 adjustable member from the body section into the external card bay.

1 8. The information handling system of Claim 4 wherein the external card
2 comprises a rotational storage media.

1 9. The information handling system of Claim 4 wherein the external card
2 comprises a wireless networking card.

1 10. A method for coupling an external card in an information handling
2 system external card bay, the method comprising:
3 inserting an external card blank against a first side wall of the external card
4 bay;
5 inserting the external card against a second side wall of the external card bay;
6 coupling signal connectors of the external card to signal connectors of the
7 external card bay;

8 disposing a member between the external card blank and the external card; and
9 adjusting the member to rest against the external card and the external card
10 blank to maintain the external card against the second side wall.

1 11. The method of Claim 10 wherein the external card bay has first and
2 second signal connectors, the method further comprising:
3 coupling the external card blank to the first connector; and
4 coupling the external card to the second connector.

1 12. The method of Claim 11 wherein the external card width is
2 substantially one-half of the external card bay width, the method further comprising:
3 removing the external card blank from the external card bay; and
4 inserting a second external card into the external card bay, the second external
5 card width substantially one-half of the external bay width, the second
6 external card resting against the first external card and the first side
7 wall in the place of the external card blank.

1 13. The method of Claim 12 wherein the first external card comprises a
2 wireless network card.

1 14. The method of Claim 10 wherein adjusting the member further
2 comprises:
3 biasing the member to extend from the external card blank into the external
4 card bay; and
5 rotating the member from the external card bay into the external card blank
6 when the external card inserts into the external card bay to rest against
7 the second wall and the external card blank.

1 15. The method of Claim 10 wherein adjusting the member further
2 comprises:
3 biasing the member to extend from the external card blank into the external
4 card bay; and

5 laterally retracting the member from the external card bay into the external
6 card blank when the external card fits in the external card bay to rest
7 against the second wall and the external card blank.

1 16. The method of Claim 15 wherein the external card comprises a
2 rotational storage device.

1 17. The method of Claim 10 further comprising:
2 assembling the external card and external card blank into a single assembly;
3 and
4 inserting the assembly into the external card bay.

1 18. A system for securing an expansion card in an information handling
2 system expansion card bay, the expansion card bay having first and second
3 connectors, the system comprising:
4 a base having a connector operable to couple with the first expansion card bay
5 connector;
6 a body extending from the base to align against an expansion card bay wall,
7 the body having a width and a cavity; and
8 an adjustable member coupled to the body, the adjustable member aligned to
9 selectively extend from the body into the expansion card bay to engage
10 an expansion card coupled to the second expansion card bay connector.

1 19. The system of Claim 18 wherein the adjustable member rotationally
2 couples to the body, the adjustable member extending into the expansion card bay to
3 engage narrow expansion cards and rotating into the body cavity to provide space in
4 the expansion card bay for wide expansion cards.

1 20. The system of Claim 18 wherein the adjustable member laterally
2 couples to the body, the adjustable member laterally extending into the expansion
3 card bay to engage narrow expansion cards and laterally retracting into the body
4 cavity to provide space in the expansion card bay for wide expansion cards.